

App. No. 10/776846
Office Action Dated July 1, 2004
Amd. Dated September 30, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 is hereby amended. The revisions to claim 1 are supported, for example, by Fig. 1. Claim 7 represents original claim 2 written in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoneda. (US 6,492,896). Applicant traverses this rejection. Claim 1 requires that the extremity of the undercoat overlapping the upper electrode is located closer to a respective side surface of the insulating substrate than it is to an extremity of the overcoat overlapping the auxiliary upper electrode. Thus, the extremity of the undercoat extends well beyond the corresponding extremity of the overcoat and reliably prevents foreign substances (entrained in air) from reaching the upper electrode. In contrast, Yoneda, Fig. 1, shows only minimal overlap, if any, between the edge of the undercoat and that of the uppercoat, and the edge of the undercoat clearly is much closer to the overcoat than it is to the side surface.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneda as applied to claim 1, further in view of Oh. Oh is cited as suggesting certain electrode materials. Oh does not remedy the deficiencies of Yoneda noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Oh to the features of claims 4-6.

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1. Claim 7 represents original claim 2 (deemed to contain allowable material) rewritten in independent form.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: September 30, 2004

DPM:mfe

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300